

**DOE TEC Inter-Modal Subtopic Group Conference Call  
Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**Participants:**

**Chair:** Melissa Bailey (CSG/NE)

**Members:** Alex Thrower (OCRWM), Bob Halstead (State of Nevada), Cash Jaszczak (Nye County, Nevada), Fred Dilger (State of Nevada), Aubrey Godwin (State of Arizona), Jim Williams (WIEB), and Tammy Ottmer (WIEB)

**Contractor Support:** John Smegal (Legin)

**Summary:**

Melissa Bailey opened the meeting by recapping the discussion from the last conference call and presenting the current agenda items. Participants agreed that the minutes from the last conference call could be finalized. Melissa Bailey noted that the Pennsylvania shortline rail trip report was still being drafted and should be issued by December 19, 2007.

In response to a question from a participant, Alex Thrower provided his impressions on the budget situation. He suggested that there remained a great deal of uncertainty regarding future funding levels and that there were a number of scenarios that could play out, including significant funding reductions. He observed that OCRWM/OLM had operated in the past under funding constraints and would continue to do so in the face of prospective cuts.

The discussion then progressed to other agenda items. Participants agreed to postpone any detailed discussions on potential sites for future visits to assess inter-modal operations. A number of participants also questioned the feasibility, at least at this stage, of the group developing a formal set of questions to submit to states regarding their perceptions of inter-modal operations risk. In the end, participants agreed postpone these discussions as well.

Cash Jaszczak asked if DOE had a site-by-site assessment of all the generator sites that evaluated which would require some sort of intermodal operation to move the materials to the most appropriate rail line. Alex Thrower indicated that there was not. He indicated that he would assemble a presentation on the concept of intermodalism within the EIS and SEIS. He stated that he would distribute this presentation prior to the February 2008 TEC meeting.

Bob Halstead suggested that he would provide some of this “missing” information via the State of Nevada’s comments on the EIS and SEIS. He also suggested that the European perspective was particularly relevant to intermodal operations.

The conference call concluded with a discussion on the subgroup workplan. Participants agreed to delete item 3a – relating to surveying state and local policy makers perceptions of intermodal risks. In addition, Bob Halstead suggested that the group hold a follow-up brain-storming session to discuss item 4 (i.e., Identify funding, inspection, and other administrative implications of intermodal transportation for states). Participants agreed, although the date for the session was not established.

Alex Thrower indicated that he had a number of comments on the intermodal issues paper that Bob Halstead had prepared. He stated that he would circulate his comments to the entire intermodal subgroup, as well as submit them directly to Mr. Halstead.

The call was adjourned.

**Action Items:**

- Complete Pennsylvania shortline rail trip report – Melissa Bailey
- Revise intermodal workplan – Melissa Bailey
- Assemble presentation on intermodalism within the EIS and SEIS – Alex Thrower
- Schedule and convene brainstorming session on administrative impacts of intermodal shipments on states – intermodal subgroup